THE KEEL

RECRUIT TRAINING COMMAND
GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS

The KEEL

DEDICATION

The time spent undergoing recruit training is not easy—nor is it intended to be. Rather, it is a serious and formative experience for anyone preparing for life as a sailor.

In years to come, this book will, it is hoped, help recall the pleasant and the not so pleasant, the exciting and the routine, the humorous and the gravely important moments spent at Recruit Training Command, Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois.

The keel is the backbone of a ship. This cruise book—**The KEEL**—is dedicated, therefore, to every Navyman who has completed training at Great Lakes and become the enlisted man, the sailor, the backbone of the United States Navy.

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Individual portraits of each graduating recruit in this company are displayed on pages 89 to 104
Additional candid pictures of the recruits in this company are shown on pages 41 to 56

Bicentennial Edition

For all recruit companies graduating from Great Lakes Naval Training Center during the nation's bicentennial this special edition will be printed.

GRADUATION

The graduation review is the climax of training for the recruits. Under the leadership of fellow recruits, the graduates display their newly learned abilities in military drill and military bearing in the Navy's traditional pomp and ceremony, not only to the reviewing officials but also to relatives and friends who are visitors.

The special recruit units—the State Flags Company, the Drum and Bugle Corps, the Drill Team, and the Bluejacket Choir, composed of and commanded by recruits in training—help to create a vivid and exciting picture that will last in the recruit's memory for the rest of his life.

Introducing Company Commanders

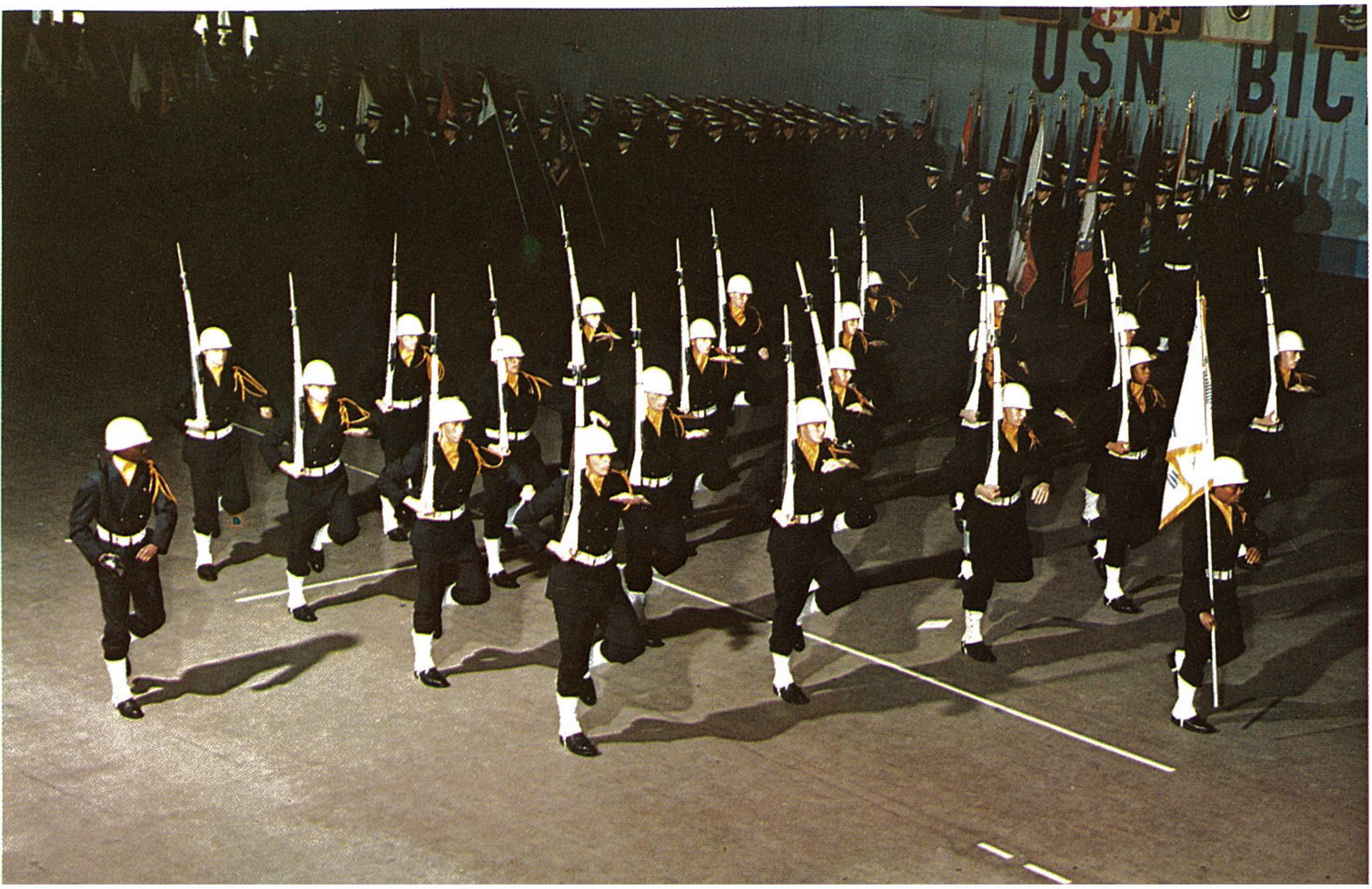
"Time Orderly, strike four bells"

Piping Reviewing Officer aboard

Inspection of Honor Guard

Naval Training Center Band 'sounds off'

Drill Team



Drum and Bugle Corps is composed entirely of recruits

Recruits in Bluejacket Choir render a rousing medley of songs

Brigade Commander sounds off all commands at graduation

"Color Guard, parade the colors"

"Let us pray"

All flags except the National Ensign are dipped during the National Anthem

USN BICENTENNIAL

1775
1976

"Open ranks, march"

"Present arms"

State Flags Company and Color Guard parade the drill field

State Flags

Recruit Honormen await awards

Guest of Honor presenting Color Company Flag

Honorman receiving award

American Spirit Honor Medal

Presentation of American Spirit Honor Medal

Hall of Fame trophy

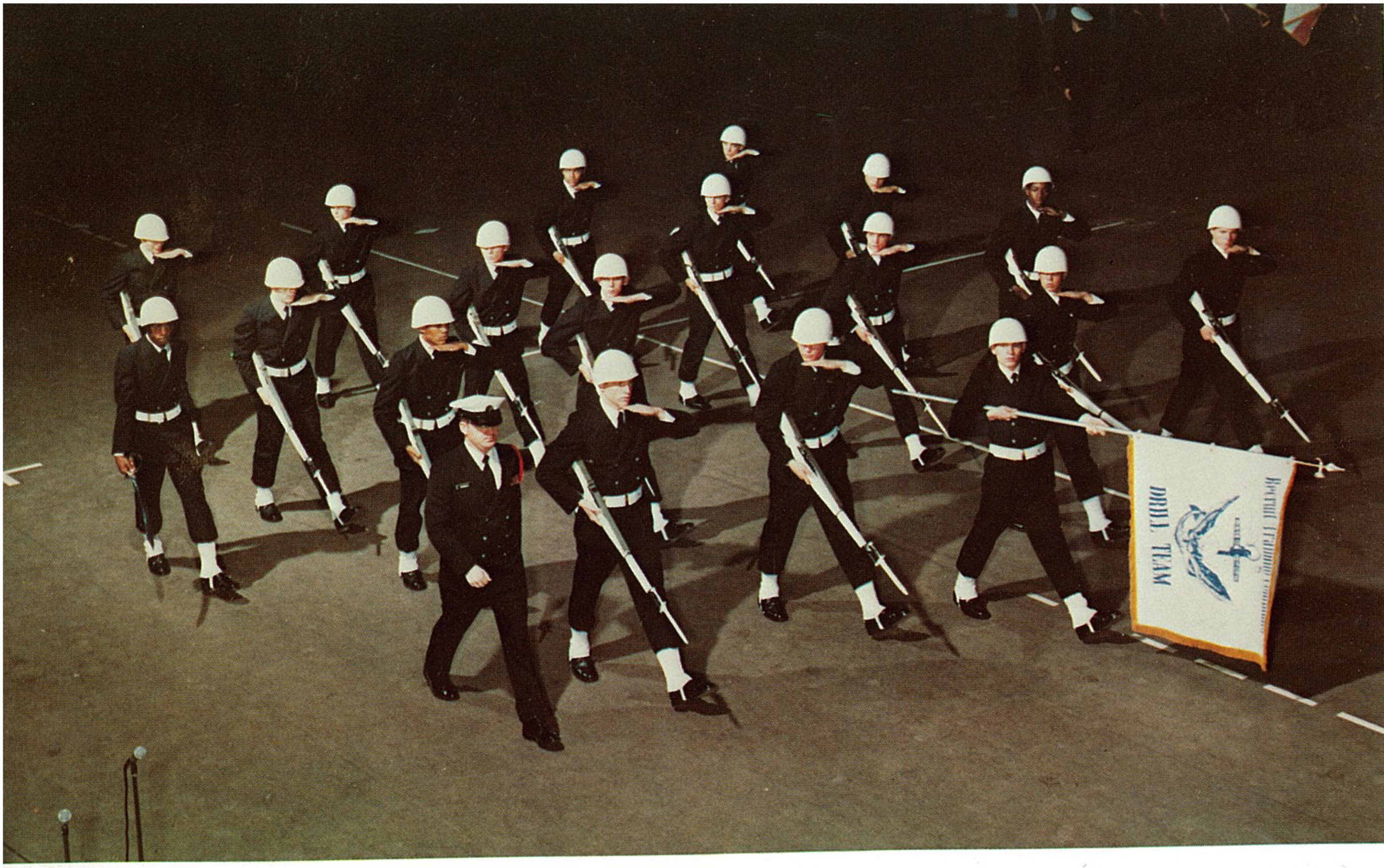
HONORMAN AWARD
This award is given to one recruit out of each company who has been chosen by his fellow shipmates as the most outstanding recruit in the company.

COLOR COMPANY FLAG
This flag is won by the company that attains the highest overall average of the group of companies with which it will graduate.

MILITARY EXCELLENCE AWARD
The Military Excellence Award is presented to a graduating recruit whose total performance in recruit training best exemplifies the qualities of enthusiasm, devotion to duty, achievement, military appearance and behavior, self-discipline and team work.

AMERICAN SPIRIT HONOR MEDAL
The American Spirit Honor Medal is awarded by the citizens for the Army, Navy and Air Force. It is given to the recruit whose outstanding leadership best represents the American spirit.

HALL OF FAME TROPHY
The company that achieves the Hall of Fame trophy is superior in all phases of recruit training. This trophy is rarely earned, and the deserving company displays it with honor in its battalion.



Drill Team

Drum and Bugle Corps

PASSING IN REVIEW

The highlight of the ceremony occurs when the graduating companies pass in review. As each company marches past the reviewing stand, the Recruit Chief Petty Officer orders, "company, eyes right," and renders a salute to the Reviewing Officer and Guest of Honor.

Reviewing officials

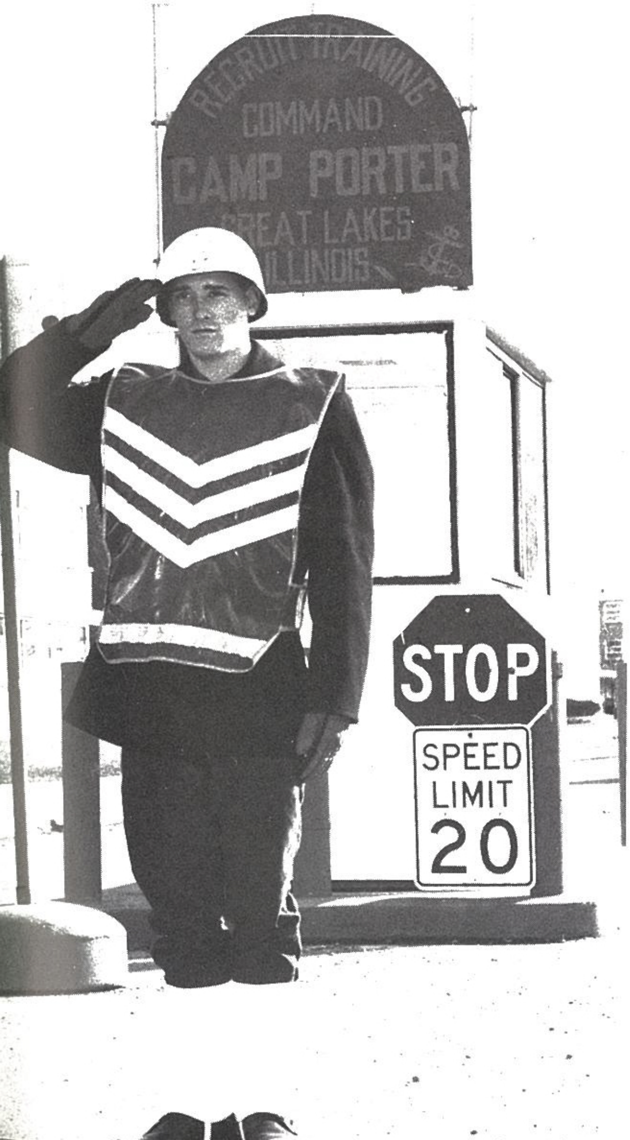
Recruit companies pass in review

During the graduation review — the climax of recruit training — each sailor thinks back to his arrival at Great Lakes and those FIRST DAYS . . .

US NAVY RECRUIT TRAINING COMMAND

"So this is it?"

The first salute



The transition from civilian to Navy life begins at the main gate with the recruit sentry on watch.

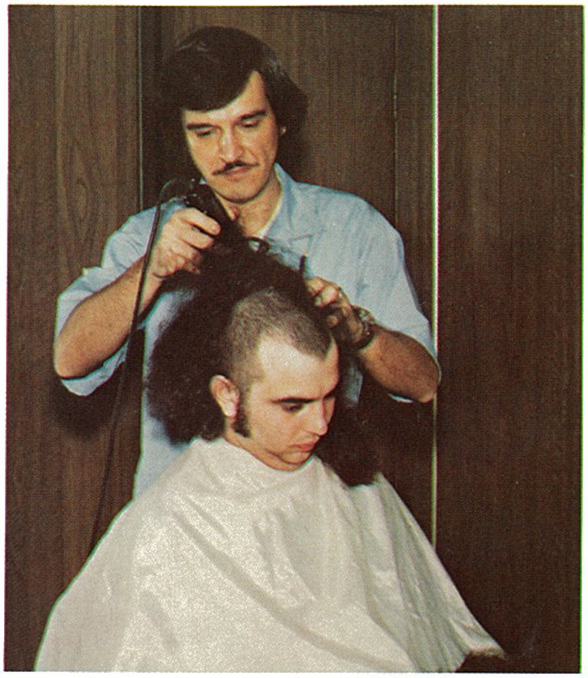
"Left, right, left, right"

"How short will they cut it?"

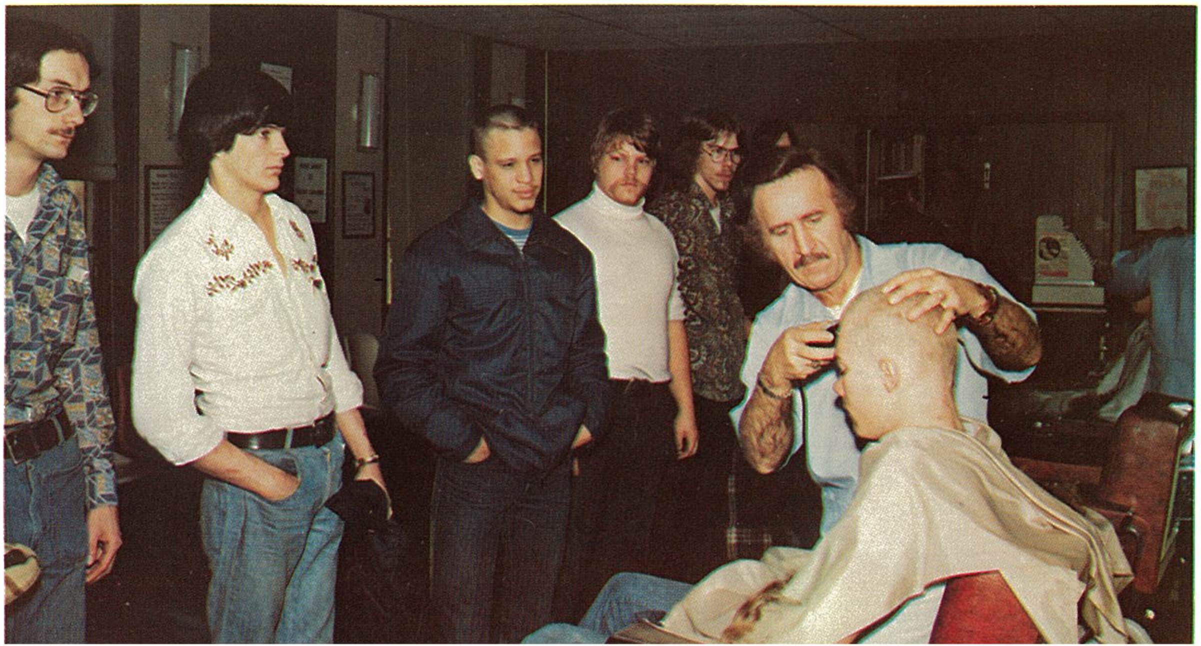
HAIRCUTS

Within the first few hours of the first day at Recruit Training Command each new recruit receives his first haircut. To some this is a very emotional moment; to others very humorous. The purpose of the haircut is to maintain cleanliness and neatness as well as to establish the concept of good military appearance.

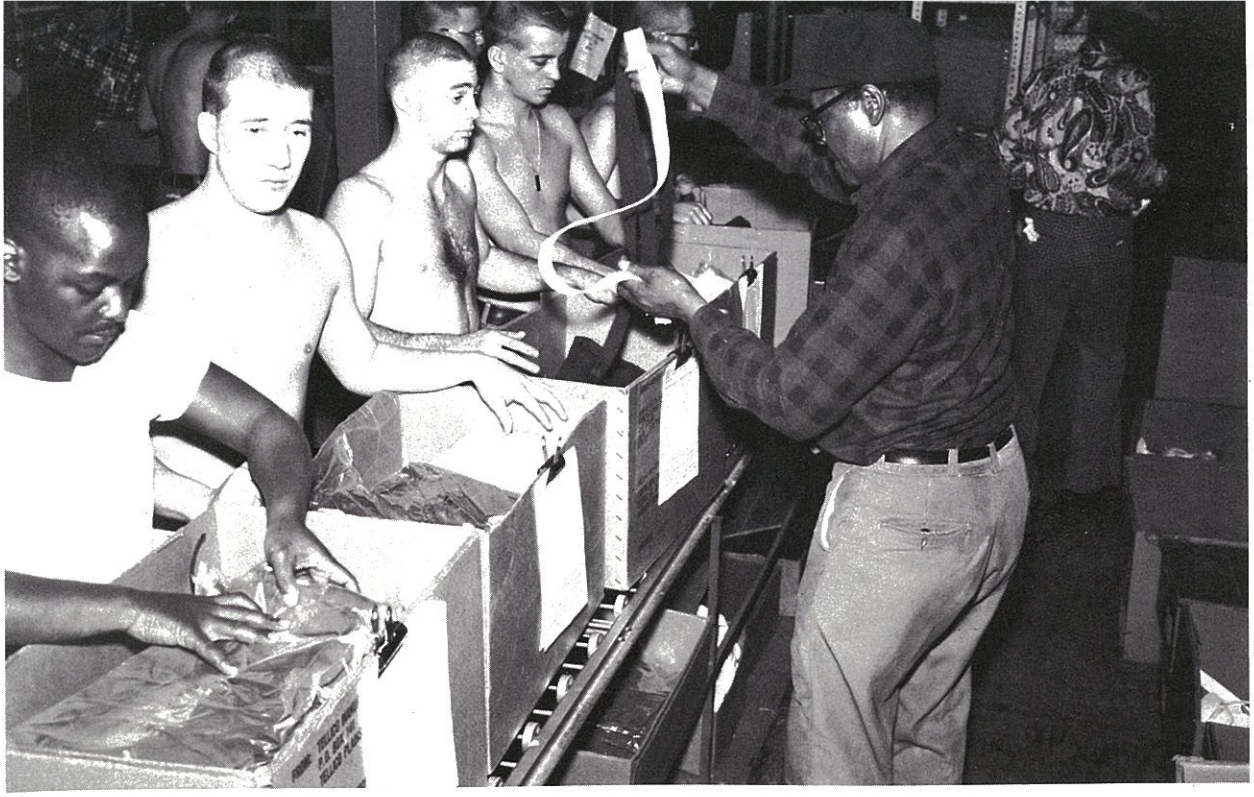
"Can I save it?"



How short would you like it?"

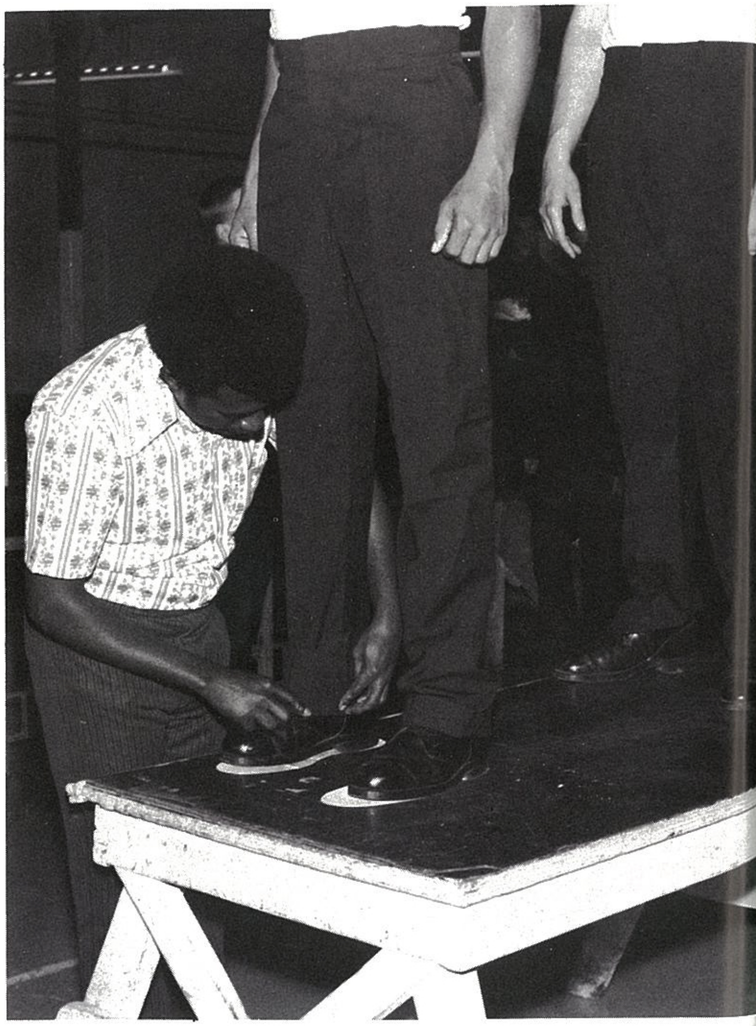


"Does it look as strange as it feels?"



"Do we need these?"

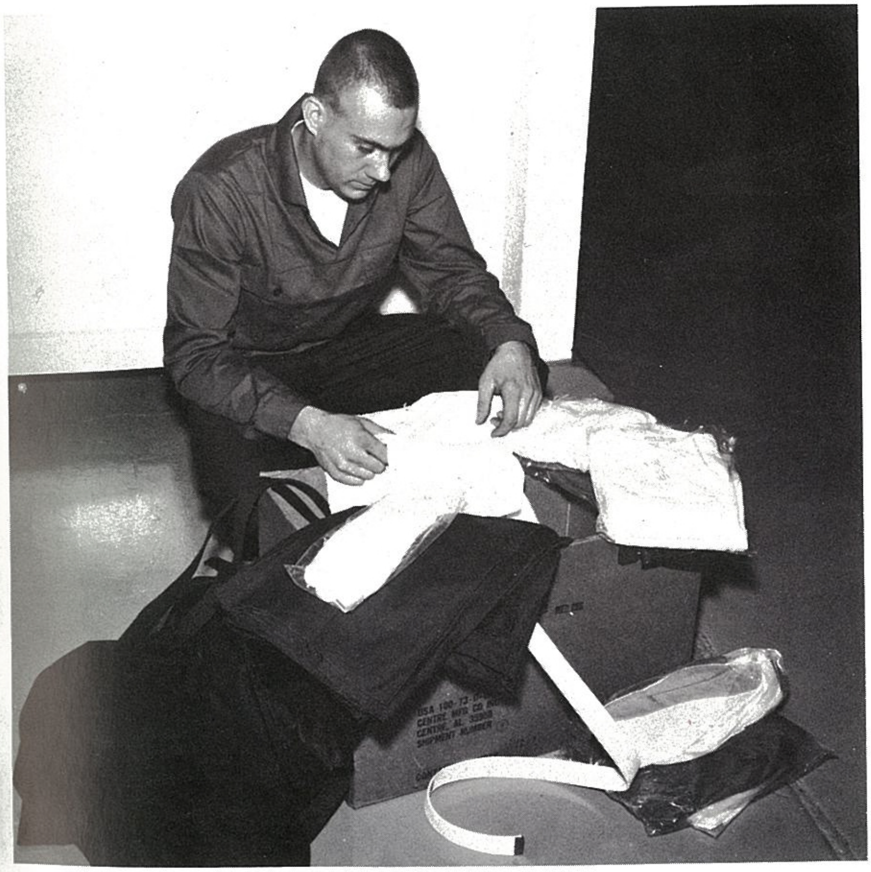
"Doesn't anyone care about my size?"



Custom tailoring

A perfect fit every time

"Can I return these?"

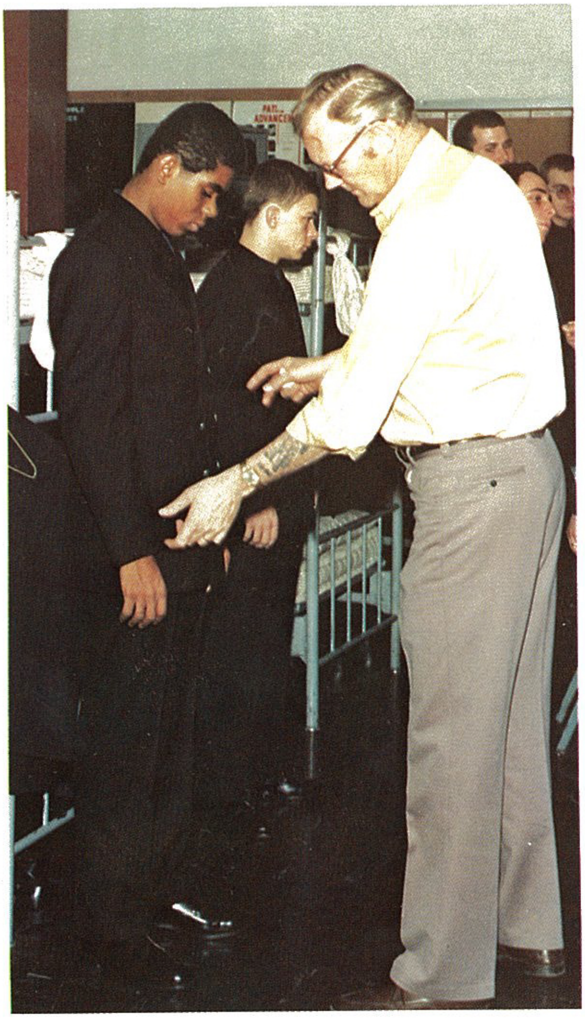


CLOTHING ISSUE

Clothing issue is one of the most confusing parts of the first day of training. Here the recruit receives his first Navy issue of uniforms which consists of clothing from the cap to the shoes.

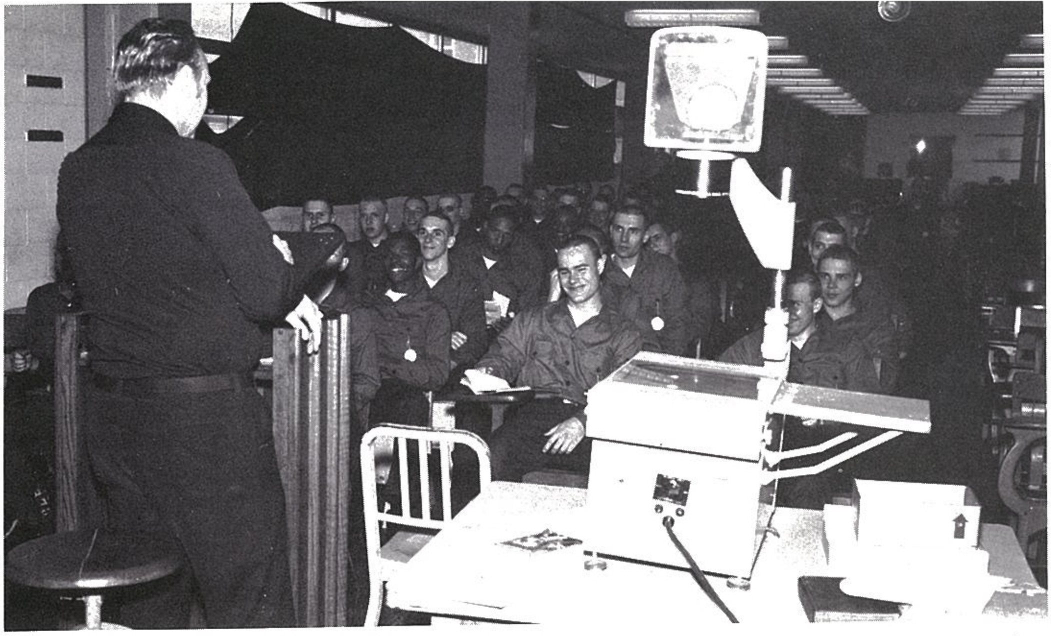
"Square your shoulders"

"A perfect 32"



"You'll grow into it"

"Boy, we do nice work"



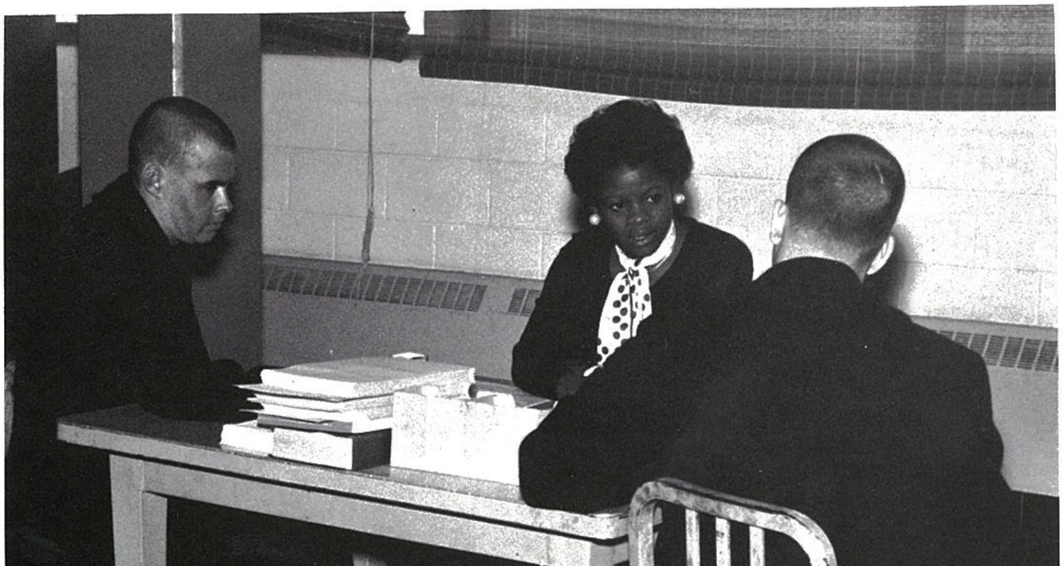
Getting acquainted with the Company Commander

IN PROCESSING

Within the first few days at Recruit Training Command the recruit goes through processing. The recruit is acquainted with his Company Commander, fingerprinted and interviewed. He is also informed about bonds and allotments.

Fingerprinting

Many forms are filled out



All recruits are interviewed

New recruits giving a helping hand

Bonds and allottments

"Your name is?"

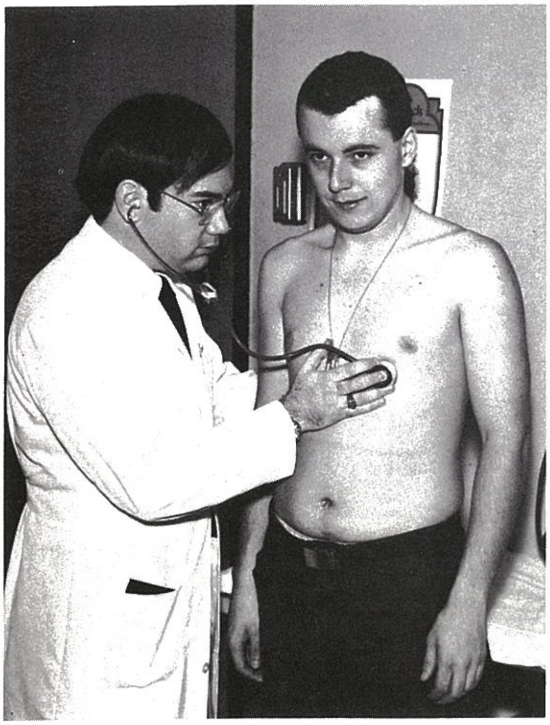
New friends

New home

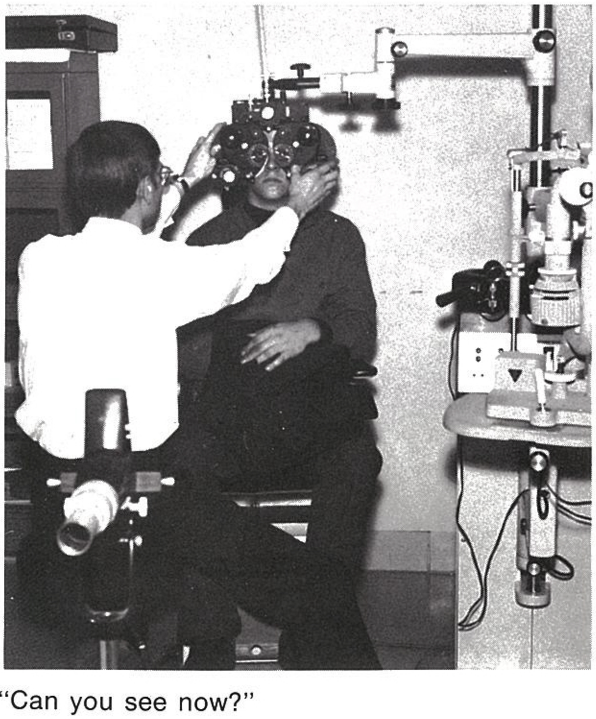
New ways

MEDICAL CARE

"No, sir, it didn't hurt"



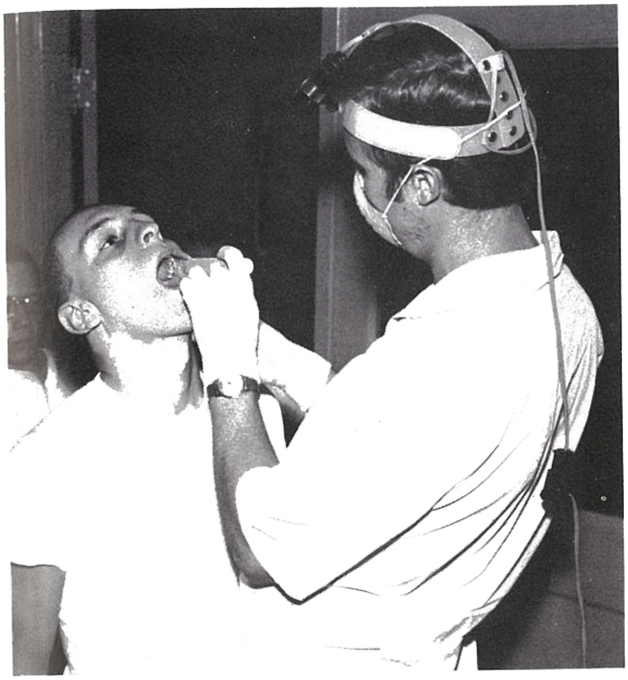
Thump, thump, thump



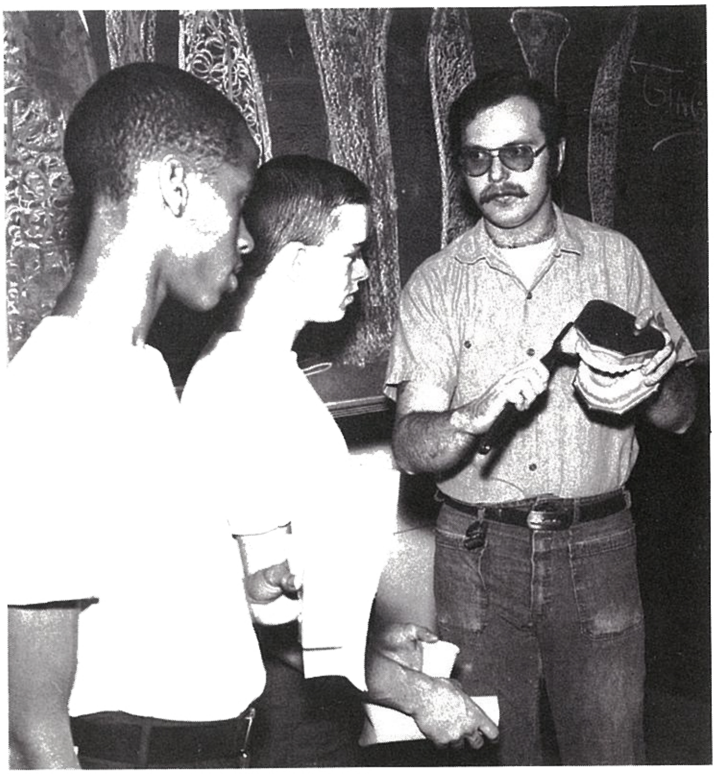
"Can you see now?"

"Next"

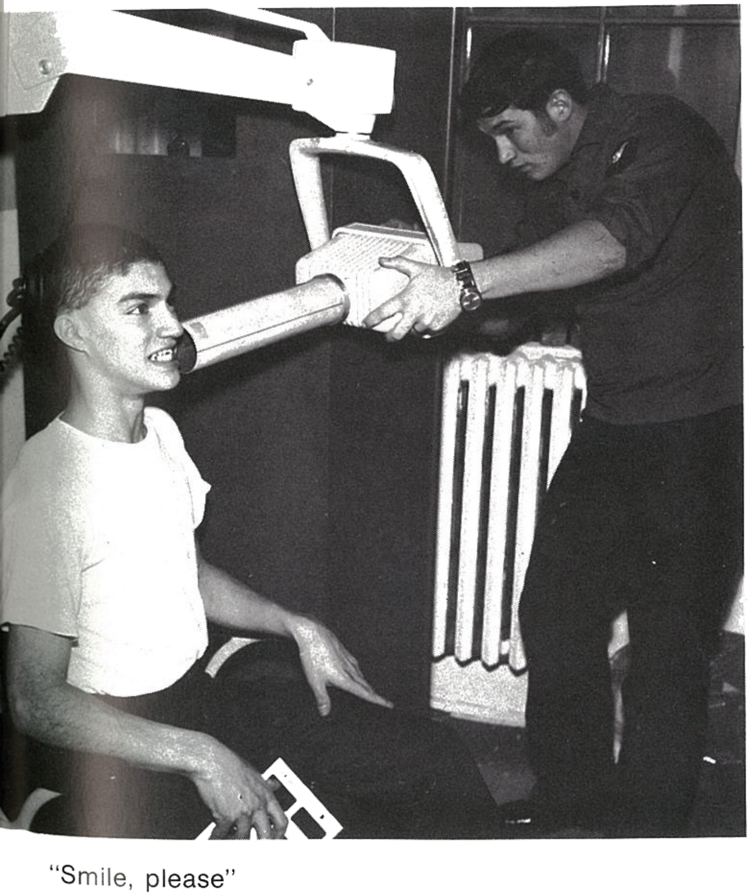
DENTAL CARE



"Say ahh"!



"This is the way we brush our teeth, brush our teeth, brush . . ."



"Smile, please"

"This should be painless"

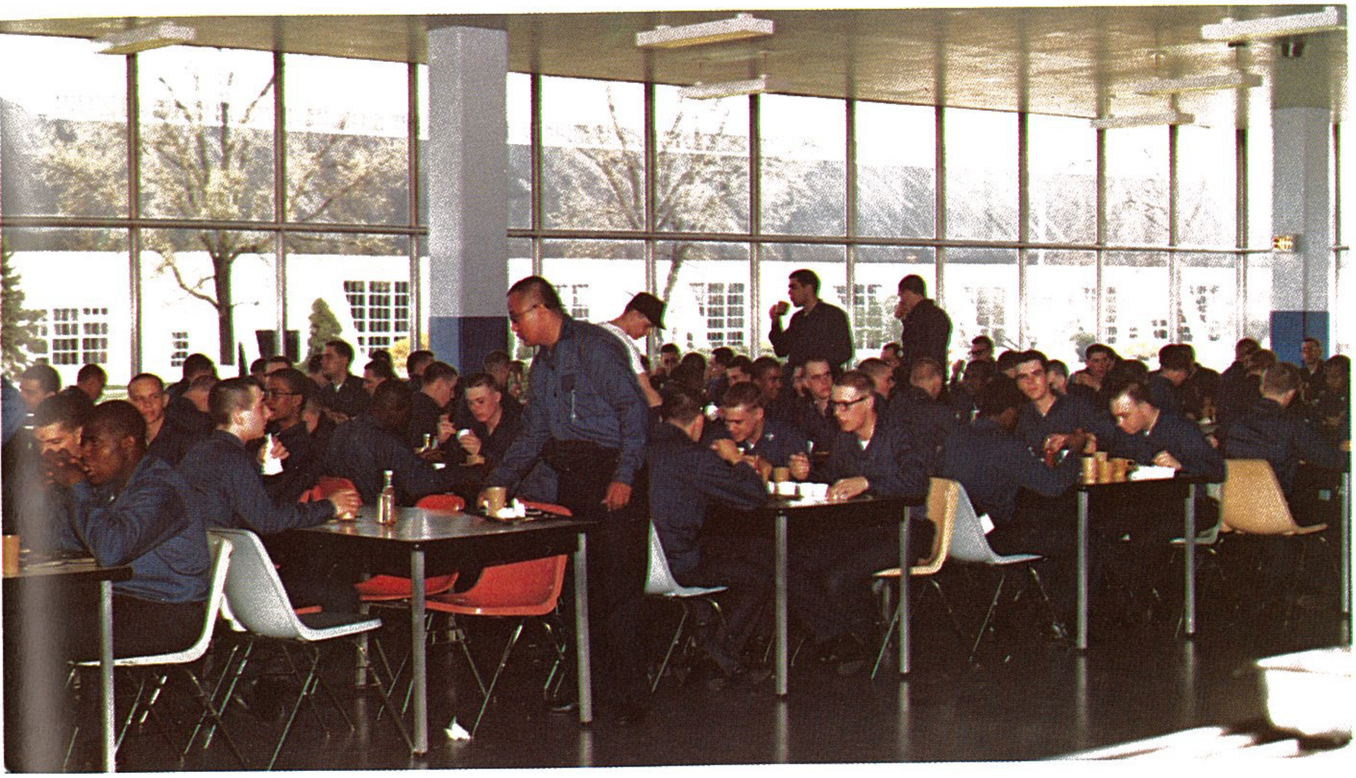
Meal time at the chow hall

"Have it your way"

"AND THEY FEED US, TOO"

"Mmm, that looks good"

"Table for three?"



"Do we pay here?"

"Keep your eyes open for a taxi"